

Message Text

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ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-02 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 MC-02 /043 W
----- 086204

O 250850Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9615
INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 0734

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, OCLR, US, ET, SU
SUBJECT: REQUEST TO OVERFLY SUDAN WITH US AMMUNITION
FOR ETHIOPIA

1. EMBASSY RECEIVED LATE EVENING MARCH 24 FOLLOWING
COMMERCIAL CABLE FROM SEABOARD WORLD AIRLINES, FRANKFURT,
FRG:

QUOTE. SEABOARD WORLD AIRLINES PLANNING OPERATE SUBSERVICE
FOR US AIR FORCE LOGISTICS COMMAND, HILL AFB, UTAH, CARRYING
18 PALLETS 90,000 (NINETY THOUSAND) LBS CLASS A AND C EXPLOSIVES
CONSIGNMENT TO ETHIOPIAN PROVISIONAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT ADDIS
ABABA. FLIGHT SAM 1253 MARCH 27 PLANNED ARRIVAL ADDIS 1500GMT
AIRCRAFT DC8-63F REGISTRATION AMERICAN N8633SW. HAVE APPLIED
FOR SUDAN OVERFLY RIGHTS WITH CIVILAIR AND HAVE BEEN ADVISED BY
SUDAN CIVILAIR TO APPLY THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS. APPRECIATE
YOUR ASSISTANCE. (SIGNED) HECK, SEABOARD/FRANKFURT. UNQUOTE.

2. WE DOUBT THAT GOS, WHILE INVOLVED IN EFFORT MEDIATE
BETWEEN TWO WARRING FACTIONS IN ETHIOPIA, WILL READILY GRANT
OVERFLIGHT PERMISSION FOR PLANE CARRYING AMMUNITION TO ONE OF
THEM. MOREOVER, WE WONDER WHETHER DEPARTMENT INTENDED
HAVE AMMUNITION FLIGHTS OVERFLY SUDAN. ALTHOUGH EMBASSY NOT
FAMILIAR WITH ROUTING FEASIBILITY PROBLEMS, IT WOULD APPEAR
THAT WE MIGHT STAND BETTER CHANCE OF OBTAINING OVERFLIGHT
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RIGHTS FOR US-ORIGIN FLIGHTS FROM AFRICAN COUNTRIES SOUTH OF

SUDAN THAT NOT INVOLVED IN ETHIOPIAN CONFLICT AND THAT PROBABLY SUPPORT OPENLY EPMG ARMED EFFORT TO SUPPRESS REBELLION. ALTERNATIVELY, IF FLIGHT ORIGINATING IN EUROPE, PLANE COULD PRESUMABLY UTILIZE RED SEA ROUTE TO REACH ETHIOPIAN AIR SPACE.

3. IF DEPARTMENT NEVERTHELESS WISHES EMBASSY TO PROCEED WITH SEABOARD REQUEST VIA DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS, WE WILL NEED PROVIDE INFO ON ORIGIN AND DESTINATION, NATURE OF CARGO AND, PERHAPS, NAMES OF CREW. IN THIS CONNECTION, DEPARTMENT WILL NOTE FROM TEXT OF SEABOARD CABLE THAT GOS CIVIL AVIATION AND, PRESUMABLY, FOREIGN OFFICE ALREADY AWARE THAT PLANE CARRYING AMMUNITION TO ADDIS.

4. IT NOT LIKELY WE COULD ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING UNTIL MARCH 26, SINCE TODAY MAJOR NATIONAL HOLIDAY (MOHAMMED'S BIRTHDAY). PLEASE SEND REPLY NIACT IMMEDIATE.

BREWER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMMUNITION, AIRCRAFT OVERFLIGHTS, MILITARY AIRLIFTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 MAR 1975
Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975KHARTO00734
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750103-0758
From: KHARTOUM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750319/aaaaaqnp.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 MAY 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <02 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REQUEST TO OVERFLY SUDAN WITH US AMMUNITION FOR ETHIOPIA
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, OCLR, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006